

McPherson is a member of the George P. Davis Post Number 116, American Legion, the Brooklyn Historical Society, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Bhrags-Tompkins Park Senior Citizen Center, and Masonic member of Joppa Lodge Number 21 A.F. & A.M.

Alvin has been the recipient of over 175 citations, certificates, and awards. Frequently cited and honored by political organizations and civic leaders in New York, Mr. McPherson continues to receive local and national honors that reflect his long and tireless efforts to the greater Brooklyn community.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to highlight the accomplishments and diligent work of Mr. McPherson. McPherson views his efforts as a way to give back; therefore, I extend to him my best wishes for continued success.

IN HONOR OF ANA RODRIGUEZ, A
REMARKABLE WOMAN WITH AN
ENDURING WILL AND A HEART
OF GOLD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay special tribute to Ana Rodriguez, a woman and author of uncommon courage and fortitude. She is a woman who endured 19 years of her life in a Cuban prison for a cause she and many others believed in. A cause which is alive today as much as it was then.

In 1961, an aspiring young Cuban medical student with a promising future joined a fledgling struggle of opposition against one man and his repressive regime. Poised with others to defend the principles of liberty, she was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 30 years in prison for opposing Castro's Communist regime.

Despite the day-to-day pain, suffering, and solitude of her incarceration, Ana Rodriguez found the will to remain faithfully committed to the principles of freedom and liberty. In "A

Diary of a Survivor," she details how Cuban political prisoners were constantly beaten, starved, threatened, and confined to dark isolated cells for months at a time without water or medical treatment. And through it all, she and other prisoners refused to give in to Castro and his repressive security force.

Ana Rodriguez's 19-year struggle for freedom serves as a beacon of hope of those who continue to be unjustly persecuted for defending principles they believe in. Her life is a testimony to the many men and women still suffering today from the same repressive regime which shattered her life 35 years ago. Today, the scars of persecution, embedded within her memory and in the lives of so many, serve as cruel reminder of a regime which continues to silence its people by the use of undemocratic and barbaric means.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring this remarkable human being. Her resolve in the face of immeasurable adversity should be studied and emulated by all who dare to speak out against tyranny in defense of freedom and democracy. And I further ask my colleagues to read "A Diary of a Survivor" and let her detailed accounts of oppression and struggle for freedom serve as an example of similar struggles being waged today not only in Cuba but throughout the world.